

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 PER-03 A-01 OPR-02 ST-01

EB-07 OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05 FS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /090 W

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O 222028Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 407

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AEMR, LA

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE C-130 AIRCRAFT AT

DISPOSAL OF UNITED NATIONS

REF: A) AMB. BLAKE/KLEIN TELCON

B) AMB. FERGUSON/AMB BLAKE TELCON

C) REIS/KLEIN TELCON

D) VIENTIANE 3584

E) VIENTIANE 3612

FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE DELIVERED TO SIR ROBERT JACKSON

22 MAY 1975, 1550 HOURS EDST.

QTE

BECAUSE OF THE INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE POLITICAL
SITUATION IN LAOS, THE UNITED STATES IS IN THE PROCESS
OF REDUCING THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN LAOS ON
AN EXPEDITED BASIS. IN ORDER THAT THIS REDUCTION OCCUR
IN AN ORDERLY FASHION, WITH MINIMAL LOSS OF PERSONAL
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PROPERTY, THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE IS

EMPLOYING ALL AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL PACKING AND TRANSPORT SERVICES TO CRATE THE HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND ALSO IS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS, WHERE AVAILABLE, FOR THE USE OF CHARTER AIRCRAFT TO SHIP THESE EFFECTS OUT OF LAOS.

THERE CURRENTLY IS A SUBSTANTIAL BACKLOG OF AIR AND SURFACE FREIGHT READY FOR SHIPMENT, ALL OF WHICH HAS HAD APPROPRIATE CUSTOM CLEARANCES. CURRENTLY, THERE IS APPROXIMATELY 75 SHORT TONS CREATED AND READY TO BE SHIPPED. WITHIN A WEEK AN ADDITIONAL 75 SHORT TONS SHOULD ALSO BE READY FOR SHIPMENT. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO ESTIMATE ADDITIONAL SHIPMENTS BEYOND THESE 150 SHORT TONS BUT PROBABLY ADDITIONAL TONNAGE WILL HAVE TO BE MOVED.

IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT TWO AUSTRALIAN C-130 AIRCRAFT, PRESENTLY AT THE DISPOSAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, MAKE REGULAR FLIGHTS FROM BANGKOK TO VIENTIANE, WHERE RELIEF SUPPLIES ARE OFF-LOADED FOR ONWARD SHIPMENT TO HANOI. IT IS ALSO OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE AIRCRAFT GENERALLY RETURN TO BANGKOK EMPTY. IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO UNITED STATES EFFORTS IN LAOS TO EFFECT AN ORDERLY AND RAPID REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL IF UNUSED CARGO SPACE IN THESE AIRCRAFT COULD, UPON RETURNING TO BANGKOK, BE LOADED WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED PERSONAL PROPERTY FOR OFF-LOADING IN BANGKOK.

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INDICATED ITS AGREEMENT TO USE THE SUBJECT AIRCRAFT PROVIDING THAT THE THAILAND AND LAOS GOVERNMENTS AGREE, AND PROVIDING THAT THE UNITED NATIONS AGREES. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING THE CONCURRENCE OF THE LAOS AND THAILAND GOVERNMENTS, WHICH IS EXPECTED MOMENTARILY.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS CONCUR IN THE USE OF THE TWO AUSTRALIAN AIRCRAFT AS SPACE IS AVAILABLE, FOR THE PURPOSE DESCRIBED ABOVE, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO USE CHARTER AIRCRAFT WHEREVER

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POSSIBLE; AND WITH THE FURTHER UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LAOS AUTHORITIES IN GRANTING PERMISSION ALSO GUARANTEE PROPER SECURITY TO THE AIRCRAFT AND THEIR CREWS.

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